GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:694
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
FREE LEGAL AID TO POOR SC/ST OBC OF RAJASTHAN
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds being provided by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan for providing legal aid to poor sections of SCs, STs and OBCs are adequate;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided for the said purpose during last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has been unable to fully utilize the funds allocated for providing legal aid to eligible persons and a large amount of allocated funds has remained unutilized; and

(d) if so, the details of unutilized funds by the State, year-wise ?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

(a)&(b) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). In terms of Sub-section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA allocates funds to various State Legal Services Authorities, including Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, for implementation of various Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes of NALSA which include provision for legal services to the weaker/poor sections of the society, including SCs/STs & OBCs and other poor people entitled to legal services under Section 12 of the Act. Adequate funds have been provided by NALSA to Rajasthan State Legal Services Authorities over the years. The details of the funds provided for the aforesaid purposes during the last three years to Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority are as under:-

Period	Amount allocated Rs.
(i) 1999-2000	2,00,000/-
(ii) 2000-2001	40,55,000/-
(iii) 2001-2002	15,00,000/-

(c)&(d) In the very nature of things at times, the funds placed at the disposal of State Legal Services Authorities, including Rajasthan, do not get exhausted and are therefore, allowed to be carried over to the next financial year. In the case of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, Rs.82,390/- was allowed to be carried over during the financial year 2000-2001, Rs.5,54,753/- during the financial year 2001-2002 and Rs.6,71,342/- has been allowed to be carried over during the current financial year.